

When I was a young child, in between my favorite cartoons I used hear public service announcements "in the public interest" presented by the local television stations. These announcements etched in my mind very early the importance of finite public resources such as the electromagnetic spectrum. Now with children of my own, and seeing the general degeneration of television content, I am deeply concerned that proposed FCC rule changes will make matters far worse by concentrating ownership of broadcast content in the hands of an elite few. I consider the EM spectrum to be not unlike public resources such as roads, electricity, water supplies, police protection, etc. How these are regulated and implemented has a vast impact on the livability of a community. If these resources are fairly available to all, livability increases. If not, the power to control large aspects of community life rests with only a few, and the resource fails to be "public." I cannot emphasize strongly enough that allowing pooled ownership of television stations in a given service area would have a very detrimental effect on television content and on the public's access to diverse information and programming. What has already happened to the FM radio market is a harbinger of this... in the midst of a huge choice in physical stations, choice in content has become remarkably limited. Allowing this to happen to the television market would not be in the public interest.